

IDS CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

I. **THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b): (check one box)**

- Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 1.53(d).
- Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 1.491 in an international application.

Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c) and see the statement under 1.97(e) **or** charge deposit account 50-2091 the fee specified by 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) if such statement is not selected in Section VI.

- Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 1.114.

II. **THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c):**

After the period specified in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) and before the mailing date of any of a final action under 1.113, a notice of allowance under 1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and accompanied by:

- a statement specified in 1.97(e) as subsequently provided in this IDS; or
- the fee set forth in 1.17(p).

III. **THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(d):**

After the period specified in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c) and on or before the payment of the issue fee, and it is accompanied by a statement specified in 1.97(e) as subsequently provided in this IDS **and** the fee set forth in 1.17(p).

IV. **Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e) (check only one box)**

The undersigned hereby states that:

- Each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.
- No item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

V. **Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d):**

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

VI. **CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file patently distinguish the present invention from each of the references cited in this IDS. The references cited in this IDS are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art or contain matter which anticipates the invention or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in a combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore the filing of this IDS should not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in this IDS is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 1.56(b). In addition, the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number associated with Customer No. 29,906. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 50-2091.